

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM

2005 ANNUAL REPORT

Missouri Department of Economic Development



YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR 2005

The Youth Opportunities Program (YOP) is authorized to allocate up to \$6 million in tax credits per year for youth projects. Through the 2005 application process, YOP approved a total of 42 projects with a total allocation of \$6,000,000 in tax credits. A 2005 project list is enclosed.

YOP primarily partners with non-profits that work in their communities to develop and implement opportunities for at-risk youth. They teach youth to overcome their current circumstances and realize their potential as productive citizens. The non-profits partner with the Youth Opportunities Program to leverage private dollars to fund projects that meet this goal. Youth stay in school, obtain high school diplomas, earn GEDs, participate in internships and employment experiences to learn job skills, learn conflict resolution techniques and abstain from drugs and alcohol. This program is an incentive for non-profits to provide this programming to youth that would otherwise not have these opportunities.

In 1998, the Youth Opportunities Program adopted the following seven program outcomes as a means to measure and verify the impact the program is having throughout the state.

- 1. Increase the number of at-risk youth with a high school diploma.**
- 2. Increase the number of at-risk youth that receive a GED.**
- 3. Increase the number of at-risk youth that remain in school and earn course credit(s) toward a diploma.**
- 4. Reduce the number of at-risk youth committing crimes and violent acts.**
- 5. Decrease the number of at-risk female teens that become pregnant.**
- 6. Increase the number of youth that have completed alcohol and drug awareness programs and abstain from alcohol and drug use.**
- 7. Increase the number of at-risk youth that have completed an employment skills education and development program.**

To date, projects awarded credits in 1998-2004 have reported the following results under each of the program outcomes. These numbers will increase as we continue to tabulate final reports. The numbers are the totals to date for the projects authorized credits in each year. The amount of redeemed tax credits to date will reflect the true cost to the State for the outcomes produced. Projects have up to 3 years to complete a project and taxpayers have the tax year in which they contributed plus 5 succeeding tax years to redeem their tax credits. The outcome totals may vary from year to year depending on the projects that are funded under the program. Some of the numbers may include duplicated youth if the youth participate in the program more than one year or if they achieve more than one outcome.

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Credits Authorized To Date*	\$4,935,653	\$3,005,742	\$4,805,708	\$4,280,922	\$3,951,969	\$5,426,898	\$5,964,969	\$6,000,000
Credits Issued To Date*	\$3,308,972	\$2,113,400	\$4,340,140	\$3,732,761	\$3,357,769	\$3,406,746	\$3,139,409	\$1,197,103
Credits Redeemed To Date*	\$2,760,128	\$1,797,116	\$3,559,169	\$3,096,245	\$2,512,989	\$2,240,544	\$1,585,879	\$15,550
Number Earning High School Diploma	182	218	576	217	274	73	39	N/A
Number Earning GED	57	39	36	79	60	6	2	N/A
Number Earning School Credits	3,911	2,192	7,575	5,187	27,372	8,032	1,282	N/A
Number Not Committing Crimes/Violent Acts	6,992	3,472	15,536	5,855	5,541	2,430	741	N/A
Number of Teens Not Becoming Pregnant	5,430	581	12,539	821	168	513	220	N/A
Number Abstaining from Drug/Alcohol Abuse	7,017	1,246	23,216	12,409	2,412	12,258	476	N/A
Number Learning Employment Skills	1,016	1,189	2,957	1,489	1,233	503	162	N/A
Number Achieving Other Outcomes	3,458	3,115	11,449	34,496	24,247	19,129	38	N/A

**Credits Authorized To Date=Total Amount Authorized each calendar year minus any credits we have recaptured to date.*

**Credits Issued To Date=Total Credits issued for the projects that were authorized in that calendar year.*

**Credits Redeemed To Date=Total Credits that have been redeemed by taxpayers for the projects that were authorized in that calendar year.*

N/A=Not Available. No calendar year 2005 projects have closed to date to report total outcomes.

Calendar year 2005 also resulted in two new youth-serving facilities being completed, 1 being renovated, as well as the retention of 189 youth-serving jobs. In addition, current projects raised almost \$9 million in contributions. Therefore, YOP projects leveraged almost \$4.5 million in private dollars after subtracting the credits that were issued.

As shown by the numbers above, many projects are successfully helping youth become productive adults using the tax credits as a tool to raise dollars to run their programs. For example, Kingdom House is a neighborhood community center in south St. Louis City that provides disadvantaged youth with educational, employment and recreational programs.

“There have been few programs that have had such a dramatic positive impact as the Youth Opportunities Program has had upon Kingdom House. Since our first contract in 1997, YOP donations have allowed us to increase our youth programming budget by 115%.



“The tax credits have been particularly important in helping us to increase the number of donors at higher levels. In 1997 we had only 12 donors (\$47,450) whose gifts were over \$1,000 and in 2004 we had 77 (\$271,735). Clearly, the YOP tax credit incentive encourages persons to give at higher levels and as such brings new dollars to bear upon critical community problems affecting the lives of our youth.

“For years major corporations and wealthy individuals have been using tax credit programs to maximize the use of their charity dollars. YOP is unique in its ability to empower the individual donor. I have witnessed many times how individuals who have in the past only been able to make very modest gifts now have the ability to double the amount while supporting a cause they deeply believe in. Through this process they become much more committed, invested and involved in helping to address important community needs. They become our best advocates and encourage others to also give. Through the state tax incentive many more private dollars are available for youth services than before.” (Eugene Morse, Executive Director of Kingdom House)



Another organization that has been successful in utilizing the Youth Opportunities Program tax credits is the Missouri Mentoring Partnership (MMP) Program of Butler and Ripley County. MMP has received tax credits for wages paid through the Department of Economic Development since 2000. MMP partners with local businesses and uses the Youth Opportunities Program tax credits as an incentive to get the employers to hire at-risk MMP participants. The employers receive 50% tax credits for the wages paid to those youth. For approximately \$40,000 in tax credits, more than 55 youth have learned valuable job skills and benefited from one-on-one assistance from on-the-job mentors this year alone. These youth come out of this program with full time jobs that they can continue in, or at the very least, increased job skills that they will carry with them to their next employment experience.



01/01/2005 To 12/31/2005

Youth Opportunities Program

Requestor	Product Status	Authorized Amount
Aim High St. Louis	Approved	\$148,263.00
American Red Cross St. Louis Area Chapter	Approved	\$120,509.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters Of Eastern Missouri	Approved	\$198,960.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters Of The Ozarks	Approved	\$217,330.00
Boys And Girls Club Of Springfield, INC.	Approved	\$250,000.00
Boys And Girls Club Of The Capital City	Approved	\$72,426.00
Boys And Girls Club Of The Columbia Area	Approved	\$41,764.00
Boys Town Of Missouri, INC.	Approved	\$250,000.00
Butler County Community Resource Council	Approved	\$40,000.00
Butterfield Youth Services, INC.	Approved	\$75,000.00
Cameron Regional YMCA	Approved	\$48,282.00
Catholic Family Services	Approved	\$124,292.00
Chart Teen Task Force	Approved	\$15,000.00
Child Abuse & Neglect Emergency Shelter, INC.	Approved	\$230,680.00
COVAM Community Development Corporation	Approved	\$173,500.00
Crider Center For Mental Health	Approved	\$15,000.00
DeLaSalle Education Center	Approved	\$250,000.00
Edgewood Children's Center	Approved	\$250,000.00
Family Resource Center	Approved	\$103,210.00
Fellowship Of Christian Athletes	Approved	\$103,180.00
Girl Scout Council Of Greater St. Louis	Approved	\$174,245.00
Herbert Hoover Boys And Girls Club	Approved	\$250,000.00
Housing Authority Of St. Louis County	Approved	\$156,840.00
K-Life Taney County	Approved	\$47,852.00
Kingdom House	Approved	\$165,000.00
Legal Services Of Eastern Missouri, INC.	Approved	\$75,000.00
Leggett & Platt Machine Products	Approved	\$92,472.00
Lemay Child And Family Center	Approved	\$250,000.00
Lutheran Family & Children's Services Of Mo	Approved	\$250,000.00
Mathews-Dickey Boys' & Girls' Club	Approved	\$210,355.00
MBCH Professional Development Institute	Approved	\$81,393.00
Metropolitan School For Individual Instruction, INC.	Approved	\$102,250.00
Ozarks Family YMCA, INC.	Approved	\$162,500.00
Phelps County Community Partnership	Approved	\$75,994.00
Presbyterian Children's Service	Approved	\$125,000.00
Rose Brooks Center, INC.	Approved	\$152,329.00
St. Louis Internship Program	Approved	\$124,991.00
St. Mary's High School	Approved	\$131,250.00
Stella Maris Child Center	Approved	\$250,000.00
Wayside Waifs	Approved	\$62,881.00
Youth Excited About Sports (Y.E.S.)	Approved	\$250,000.00
Youth First Corporate	Approved	\$82,252.00
Totals		\$6,000,000.00